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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, and please add new Claims 15-18 as follows (delete the bracketed portion and insert the underlined portion):

1. (currently amended) An article identifying system comprising:

communication tags, each of which is attached to an article; and an information output device stationarily positioned at a predetermined location during use,

wherein each of the communication tags comprises: first storage means for storing an identifier which is assigned to an article **[with]** to the communication tag; and first transmission means for wirelessly transmitting the identifier stored in the first storage means, and

wherein the information output device comprises: a planar surface having a sufficient area on which one or more articles can be placed; second storage means for storing information data which is related to the article so that the information data is associated with the identifier assigned to the article; first receive means forming at least a part of the planar surface for receiving the identifier from the communication tags when the article with the communication tag is placed in its communication area; information reading means for reading the information data associated with the

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identifier received by the first receive means from the second storage means; and information output means for outputting the information data read out by the information reading means.

2. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 1, wherein the information data are voice data for specifying the **[corresponded]** article that is associated with the identifier.

3. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 2, wherein the information output device further comprises:

voice record means for recording the voice data for specifying the **[corresponded]** article associated with the identifier;

first write means for writing the voice data recorded by the voice recording means in the second storage means so that the identifier is associated with the article specified by said voice data; and

second transmission means for transmitting the identifier wirelessly, and

wherein each of the communication tags further comprises: second receive means for receiving the identifier from the information output device; and second write means for writing the identifier received by said second receive means in said first storage means.

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4. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 3, wherein the information output device further comprises a counter[,] which produces a counted value that is used as the identifier.

5. (original) An article identifying system according to Claim 1, wherein the information data are graphic data, which are associated with the article.

6. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a plurality of information output terminals provided separately from the information output device and connected in an information transmittable manner with the information output device through a network,

wherein said information output terminals further comprise at least the first receive means and the information output means of said information output device.

7. (currently amended) An article identifying system comprising:

communication tags, each of which is attached to an article; and an information output device stationarily positioned at a predetermined location during use,

wherein each of the communication tags comprises: first storage means for storing an identifier which is assigned to an article attached to the communication tag; and first

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transmission means for wirelessly transmitting the identifier stored in the first storage means, and

wherein the information output device comprises: a planar surface having a sufficient area on which one or more articles can be placed; second storage means for storing information data which is related to the article so that the information data is associated with the identifier assigned to the article; first receive means forming at least a part of the planar surface for receiving one or more identifiers from each of the communication tags for a predetermined period when one or more articles with the communication tags are placed in its communication area; third storage means for storing one or more identifier received by the first receive means; difference detecting means for detecting a difference between the one or more identifiers and one or more identifiers stored in the third storage means and received just before; information reading means for reading the information data associated with the identifier of the difference detected by the difference detecting means from the second storage means; and information output means for outputting the information data read out by the information reading means.

8. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 7, wherein the information data are voice data for specifying the **[corresponded]** article that is associated with

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the identifier.

9. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 8, wherein the information output device further comprises:

voice record means for recording the voice data for specifying the [corresponded] article that is associated with the identifier;

first write means for writing the voice data recorded by the voice recording means in said second storage means so that the said identifier is associated with the article specified by said voice data; and

second transmission means for transmitting said identifier wirelessly, and

wherein each of the communication tags further comprises: second receive means for receiving the identifier from the information output device; and second write means for writing the identifier received by said second receive means in said first storage means.

10. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to Claim 9, wherein the information output device further comprises a counter[,] which produces a counted value that is used as said identifier.

11. (original) An article identifying system according to Claim 7, wherein the information data are graphic data, which are

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associated with the article.

12. (currently amended) An article identifying system according to 10, further comprising:

a plurality of information output terminals provided separately from the information output device and connected in an information transmittable manner with the information output device through a network,

wherein the information output terminals further comprise at least the first receive means and the information output means of said information output device.

13. (currently amended) A method for identifying an article, comprising the following steps of:

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[the step of] preparing communication tags, each of which is attached to an article, [at which] wherein each of the communication tags [is stored with] stores an identifier assigned to the article with the communication tag;

[the step of preparing] placing an information output device [having a predetermined communication area with the communication tags] stationarily at a predetermined location throughout, wherein the information output device has a planar surface with a sufficient area upon which one or more articles with the communication tags are placed, [at which] and wherein the information output device stores the information data which is related to the article so that the information data

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is associated with the identifier assigned to the article[, and comprises information output means for outputting the information data];

[the step of] receiving the identifier from the communication tag attached to the article, when the article with the communication tag is placed in [the] a communication area created on the planar surface of the information output device;

[the step of] reading the information data associated with the received identifier; and

[the step of] outputting the read information data.

14. (currently amended) A method for identifying an article, comprising the following steps of:

617 [the step of] preparing communication tags, each of which is attached to the article, [at which] wherein each of the communication [tag is stored with] tags stores an identifier assigned to the article with the communication tag;

[the step of preparing] placing an information output device [having a predetermined communication area with the communication tags] stationarily at a predetermined location throughout, wherein the information output device has a planar surface with a sufficient space upon which one or more articles with the communication tags are placed, [at which] and wherein the information output device stores the

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information data which is related to the article so that the information data is associated with the identifier assigned to said article[, and comprises information output means for outputting said information data];

[the step of] receiving one or more identifiers for a predetermined period from each of the communication tags, when one or more articles with the communication tags are placed in [the] a communication area created on the planar surface of the information output device;

[the step of] storing the one or more [received] identifiers received from the communication tags;

[the step of] detecting [the] a difference between the one or more identifiers and one or more identifiers [stored and] received and stored just before;

[the step of] reading the information data associated with the identifiers of the detected difference; and

the step of outputting the read information data.

15. (new) An article identifying system according to Claim 3, wherein the information output device further comprises a button which is pressed by a user for recording the voice data, wherein the information output device records the voice data while the button is being pressed and stops recording when the user releases the button, and wherein when the button is pressed within a predetermined time after the voice data is reproduced, the

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information output device replaces the voice data with new voice data given by the user.

16. (new) An article identifying system according to Claim 9, wherein the information output device further comprises a button which is pressed by a user for recording the voice data, wherein the information output device records the voice data while the button is being pressed and stops recording when the user releases the button, and wherein when the button is pressed within a predetermined time after the voice data is reproduced, the information output device replaces the voice data with new voice data given by the user.

Q17 17. (new) A method for identifying an article according to Claim 13, further comprising a step of pressing a button for recording the voice data and releasing the button for ending the recording of the voice data, and a step of pressing the button within a predetermined time after the voice data is reproduced for replacing the voice data with new voice data.

18. (new) A method for identifying an article according to Claim 14, further comprising a step of pressing a button for recording the voice data and releasing the button for ending the recording of the voice data, and a step of pressing the button within a predetermined time after the voice data is reproduced for replacing the voice data with new voice data.
